The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing various schemes like Baba Sahib Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), Marketing Support and Services, Design and Technology Upgradation, Research and Development, Human Resource Development and Welfare Scheme for Handicraft Artisans on all India basis including Nagaland.

(b) and (c) For the Development of Handlooms and Handicrafts in Northern Eastern Region (NER) in general 10% of the total annual Budget outlay is earmarked for implementing above mentioned schemes including the State of Nagaland.

Textile and clothing sector overlooked in 2008-09 budget

1081. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile and clothing sector have been overlooked in the 2008-09 budget;

(b) whether any provision would be made in 2008-09 budget for crises-ridden textile and clothing sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. The budget (plan) outlay, of the Ministry of Textiles during 2008-09, has been enhanced to Rs. 2500.00 crore from Rs. 2243.00 crore during 2007-08, registering an increase of 11.00 per cent.

(b) to (d) The total budget (plan) allocation for the Ministry of Textiles has been enhanced to Rs. 2880.00 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) stage. The RE for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme stands at Rs. 1644.89 crore, as against the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 1140.00 crore.

Higher price of cotton *vis-a-vis* Pakistan

†1082. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cotton in India is higher than that of Pakistan's and Indian cotton mills are fulfilling their requirement by purchasing cotton from abroad;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) how it has affected purchase of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The prices of Indian cotton are higher than Pakistan cotton. Date-wise

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

cotton price of Shankar- 6 variety of Indian cotton and the price of cotton of Pakistan quotes in Cotlook is as under:

(In US cents/lb)

Date	S-6, 1-1/8"	Pakistan Type 1503
25.10.08	64.50	61.50
31.10.08	60.75	56.00
07.11.08	60.50	56.00
15.11.08	58.50	54.50
22.11.08	58.00	55.25
29.11.08	59.00	56.75

From the table above, it may be seen that Indian long staple cotton (Shankar-6, 28 mm) is quoted higher in the international market by about 3 to 4 US cents per pound (*i.e.* Rs. 1200/- to Rs. 1600/ per candy) higher than 27mm of Pakistan. Indian mills are mostly consuming domestic cotton only and as such there have not been large-scale imports from other countries including Pakistan. Although there have been some imports from Pakistan during the last one and a half months, but the quantity of imports was reported to be small.

(c) No Sir. Since the import is very meager, it hardly affect purchase of cotton from Pakistan.

Corrective measures to promote textile exports

1083. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exports fell by 18 per cent below the target in 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons, apart from appreciation of rupee;

(c) whether it is also a fact that share of textiles in total exports drastically fell down to 3 per cent from 14 per cent in 2007-08; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures Government is taking to promote textile exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Exports of textiles and clothing from India amounted to US dollar 22.13 billion during 2007-08, as against the target of US dollar 25.06 billion, denoting a shortfall of 8.55% from the target. The shortfall in achieving the target, apart from the rupee appreciation factor are attributable to general decrease in the volume of imports of textiles and clothing by the major buyer countries and erosion of competitive edge of the exporters in the global markets due to high domestic transition costs and incidences of multiple duties and taxes.